

BOOK 22

GOSCINNY AND UDERZO

# Asterix

## OBELIX

### and Co.



[illegible]

A cartoon illustration of a man with a grey turban and a red robe, shouting "IT'S OUR RELIEF, BOYS! IT'S OUR RELIEF!" He is holding a blue flag with a yellow sun and crescent moon. He is standing in front of a wooden fence.

**OPEN THE GATES! OPEN THE GATES!**

HEY, CENTURION SCROFULUS!  
IT'S THEM ALL RIGHT!

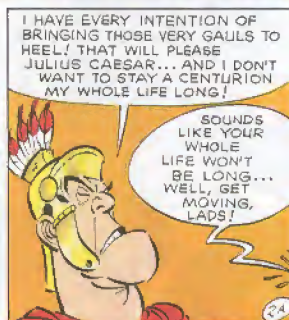
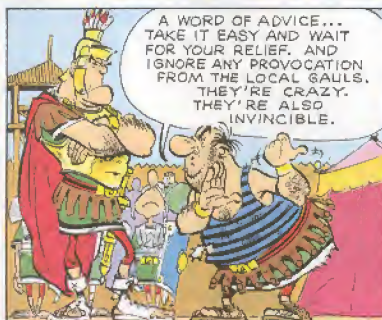
I AM CENTURION IGNORAMUS! AVE!

HI! I'M CENTURION SCROFULUS ... WHAT A RELIEF!

I AM CENTURION IGNORAMUS! AVE!

HI! I'M CENTURION SCROFULUS ... WHAT A RELIEF!

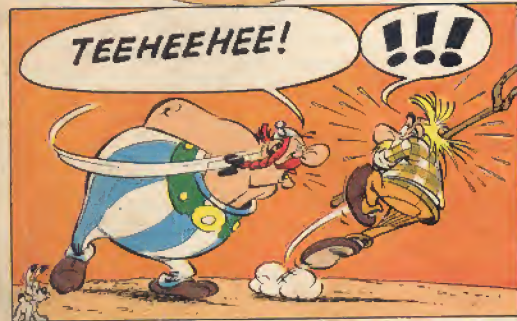
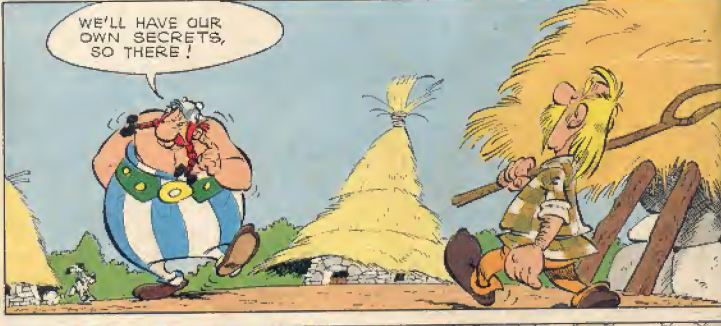
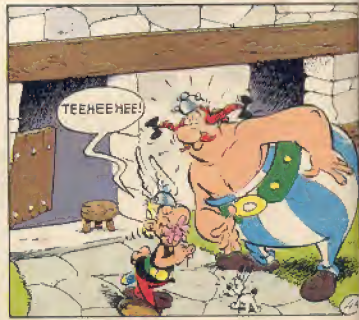
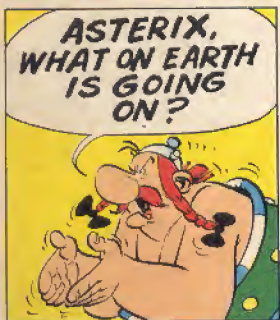
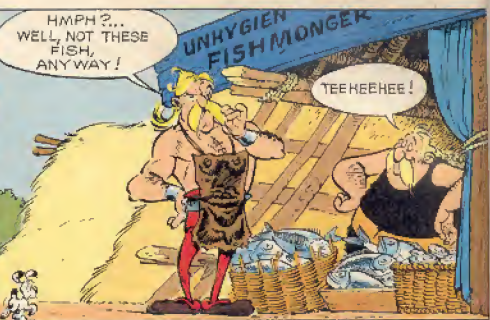
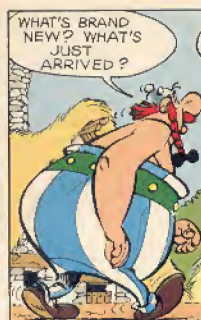




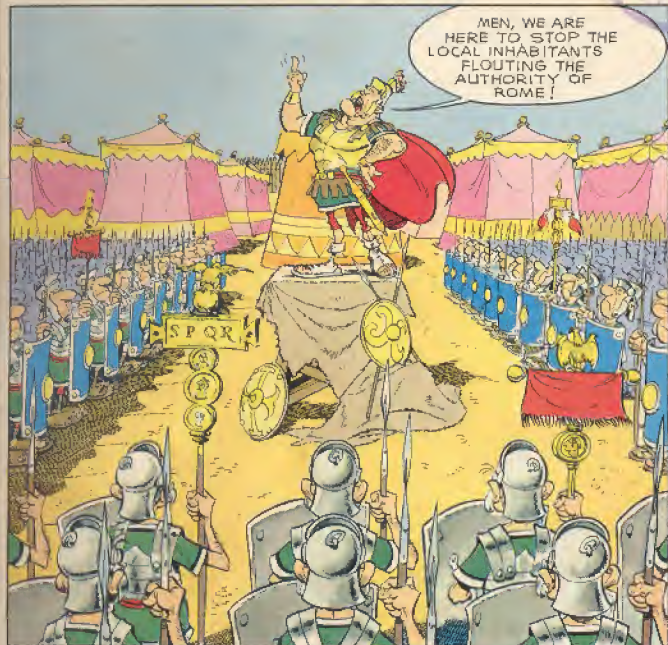












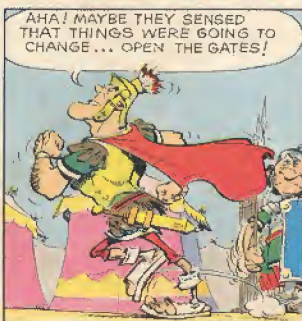
MEN, WE ARE  
HERE TO STOP THE  
LOCAL INHABITANTS  
FLOUTING THE  
AUTHORITY OF  
ROME!



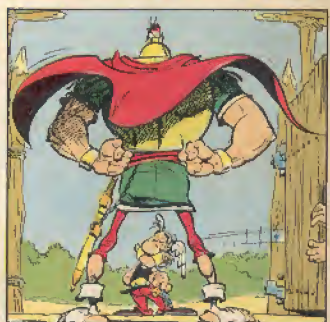
FRIENDS, ROMANS,  
COUNTRYMEN, WE  
SHALL COVER  
OURSELVES  
WITH  
GLORY!



THERE'S A GAUL  
AT THE CAMP GATES,  
CENTURION,  
SIR!



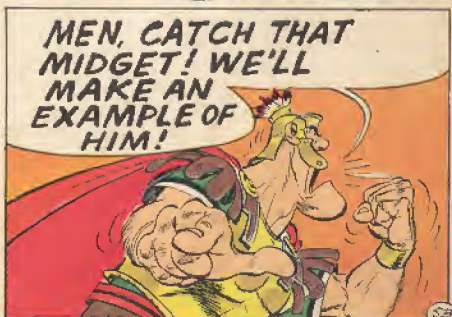
AHA! MAYBE THEY SENSED  
THAT THINGS WERE GOING TO  
CHANGE... OPEN THE GATES!



WELL, GAUL?  
COME TO  
SURRENDER?



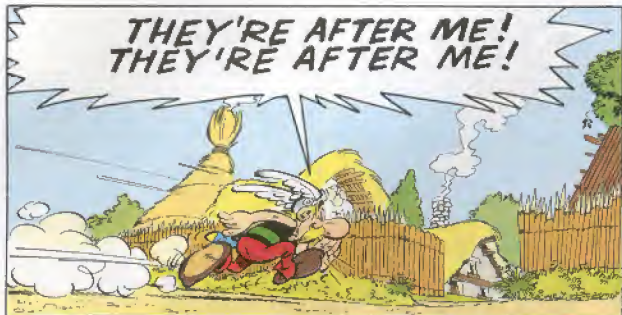
YAAAAAHHHHH!



MEN, CATCH THAT  
MIDGET! WE'LL  
MAKE AN  
EXAMPLE OF  
HIM!

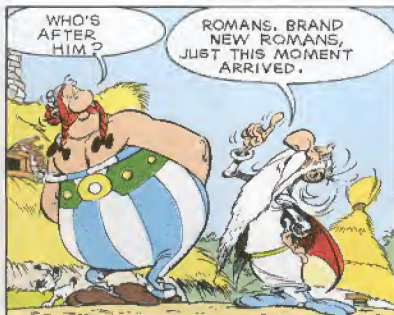


THEY'RE AFTER ME!  
THEY'RE AFTER ME!



WHO'S  
AFTER  
HIM?

ROMANS. BRAND  
NEW ROMANS,  
JUST THIS MOMENT  
ARRIVED.



ROM...? LEAVE THEM  
TO ME! LEAVE  
THEM TO ME!

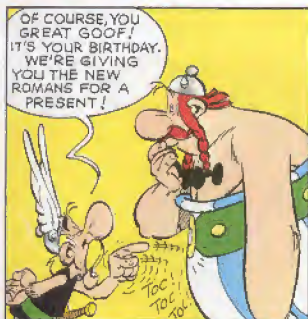


YES, YES,  
WE WILL!  
THEY'RE ALL  
FOR YOU!

ALL FOR ME?

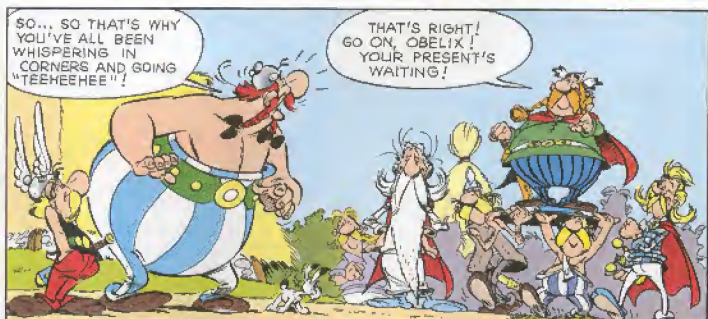


OF COURSE, YOU  
GREAT GOOF!  
IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAY.  
WE'RE GIVING  
YOU THE NEW  
ROMANS FOR A  
PRESENT!



SO... SO THAT'S WHY  
YOU'VE ALL BEEN  
WHISPERING IN  
CORNERS AND GOING  
"TEEHEEHEE"!

THAT'S RIGHT!  
GO ON, OBELIX!  
YOUR PRESENT'S  
WAITING!



MEN, WE SHALL  
RAZE THE VILLAGE OF  
THESE INSOLENT GAULS  
TO THE GROUND! CHARGE!  
THERE AREN'T MANY OF  
THEM...IT'S A GIFT!



COME ON,  
DOGMATIX!

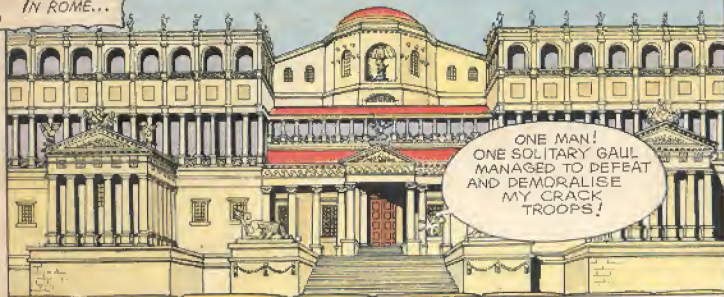




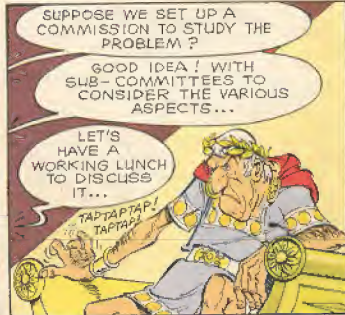




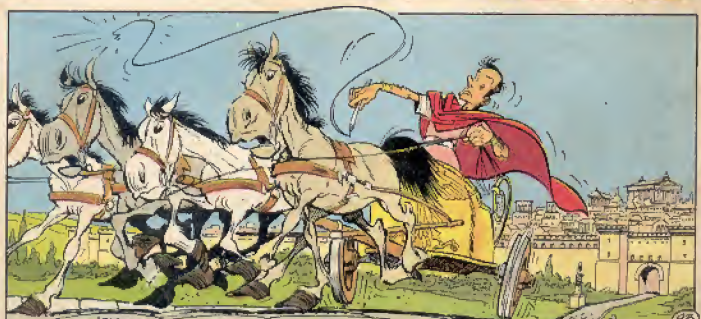
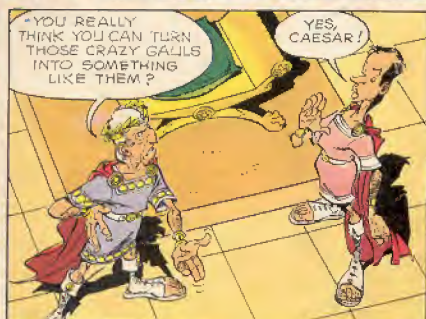
IN ROME...



THIS IS TOO MUCH! THESE GAULS  
MAKE ME LOOK RIDICULOUS. WE  
CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS, BY  
JUPITER! WELL? I'M WAITING  
FOR SUGGESTIONS!









SEVERAL  
DAYS LATER,  
IN THE  
CAMP OF  
TOTORUM...



YOU MIGHT WELL RUN INTO HIM  
IN THE FOREST... SO WATCH  
OUT! EVEN THE LITTLE  
DOG IS DANGEROUS.



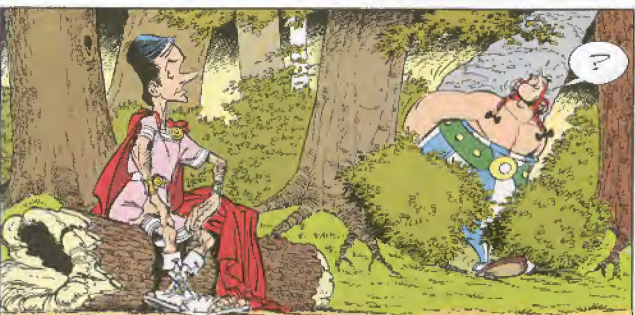
I'M OFF,  
YOU MEN,  
DON'T  
LEAVE  
CAMP.



SOON  
AFTERWARDS...



PICKED  
UP A SCENT?  
LET'S  
HAVE A  
LOOK...



OH, HOW  
BEAUTIFUL!  
JUST LOOK  
WHAT'S BEHIND  
YOU!

BEHIND  
ME?



BUT THERE ISN'T  
ANYTHING BEHIND  
ME!

YES, THERE  
IS! THAT  
MENHIR!

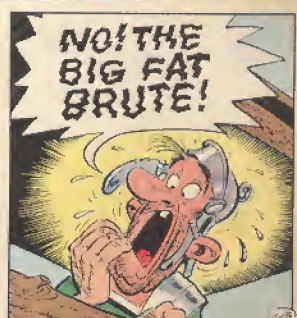
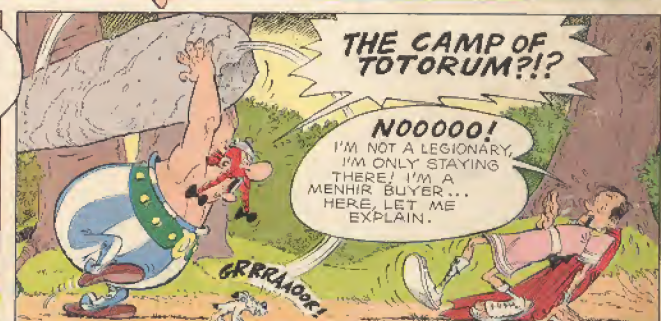
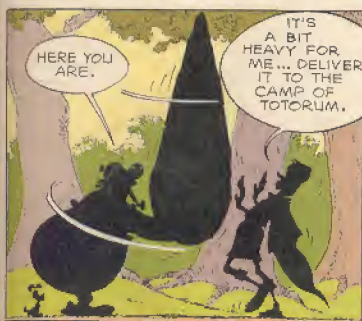
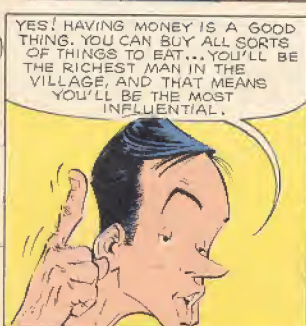
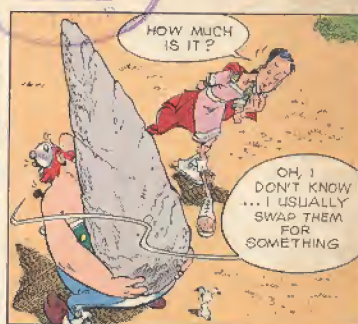
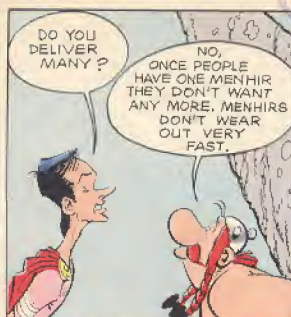


OH YES, I FORGOT...  
IT'S ONLY A MENHIR.

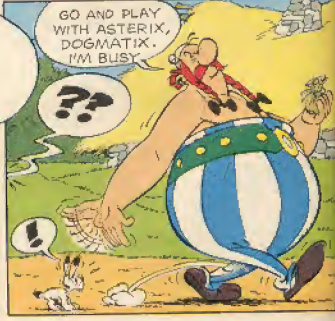
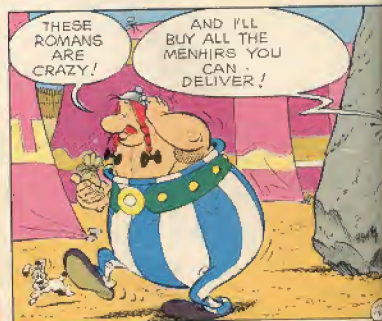
MAGNIFICENT!













NEXT DAY...

LOOK AT THAT!

THE RELIEF?

NO! THE BIG! FAT BRUTE!

TAKE COVER, ALL!

ISN'T THERE EVER ANYONE HERE?

WHAT A BEAUTY! IT'S EVEN BETTER THAN THE FIRST ONE!

HERE'S FOUR HUNDRED SESTERTII.

NO, TWO HUNDRED.

PRICES ARE GOING UP.

WHERE TO?

NO, NO... IT'S BECAUSE OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND... THE STATE OF THE MARKET... WELL, IT'S ALL RATHER COMPLICATED, BUT IT LEADS TO GALLOPING INFLATION.

AND DON'T FORGET, I'LL BUY ALL THE MENHIRS YOU CAN MAKE.

SNIFF! SNIFF!

ASTERIX!

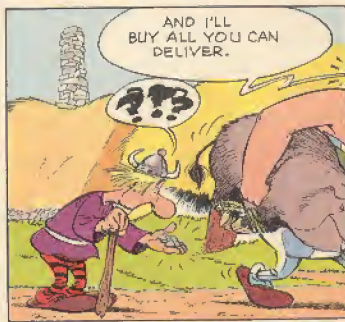
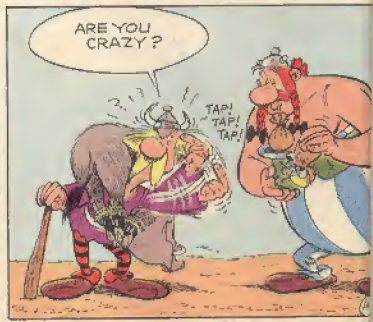
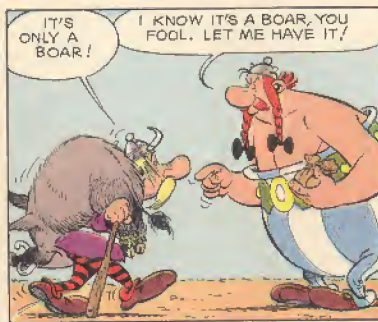
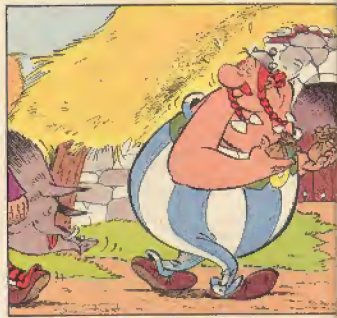
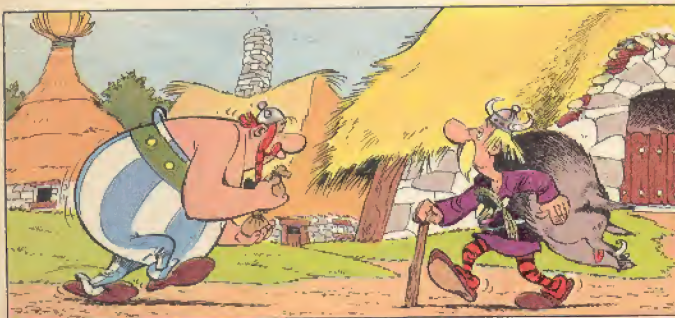
YES?

I'M HUNGRY, DO YOU THINK...

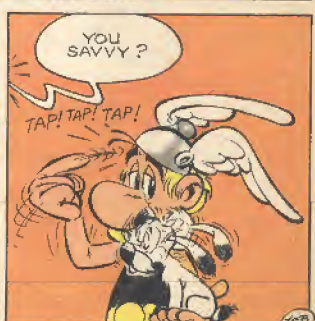
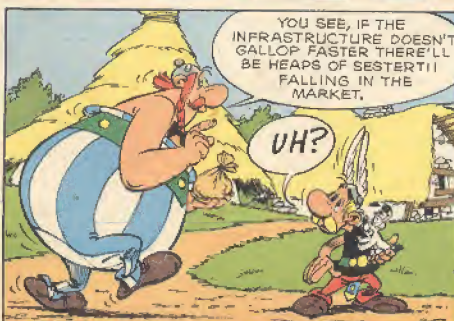
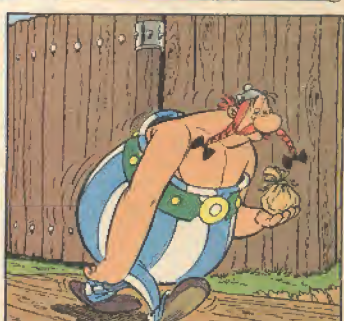
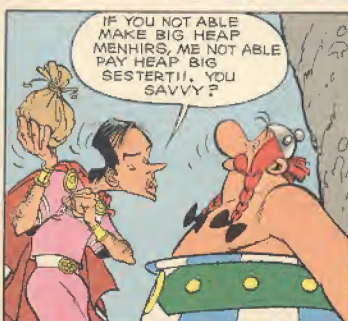
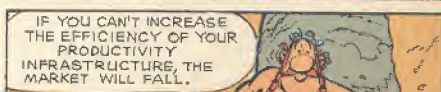
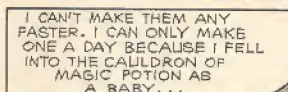
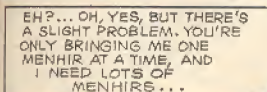
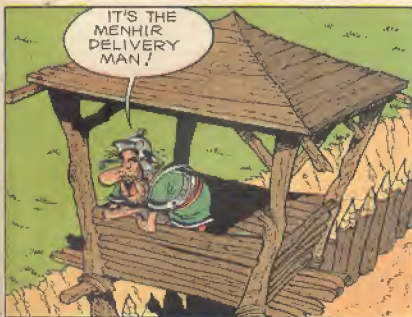
WHEN YOU'RE NOT SO BUSY YOU CAN GO HUNTING BOAR AGAIN. THE FOREST'S FULL OF THEM.

GRRRR!

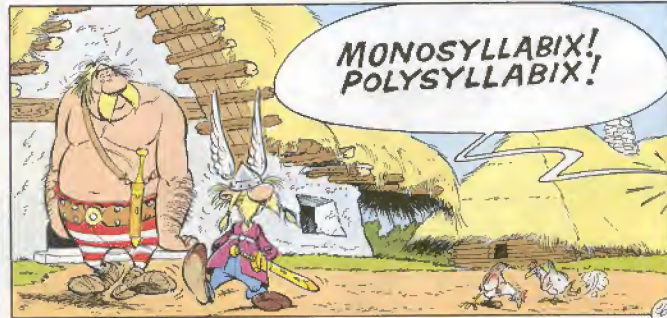
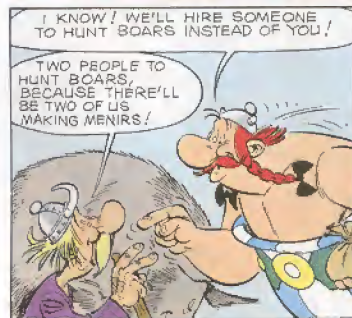
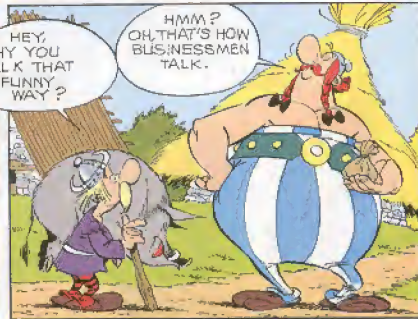
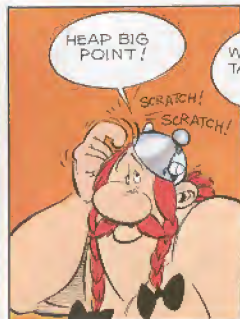
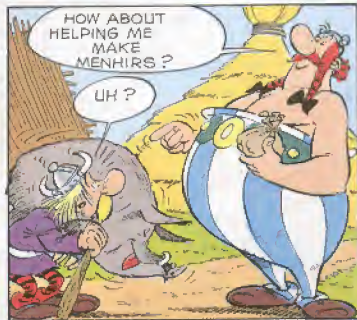
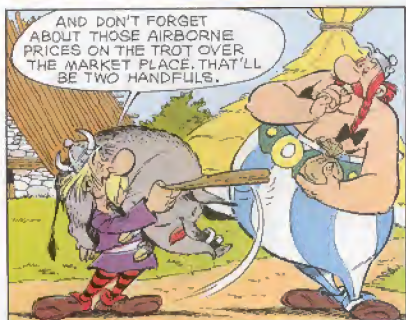
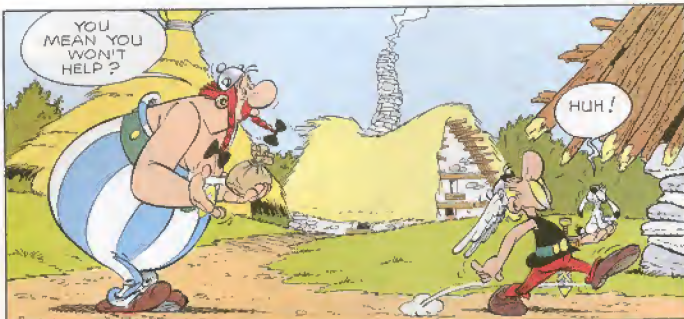




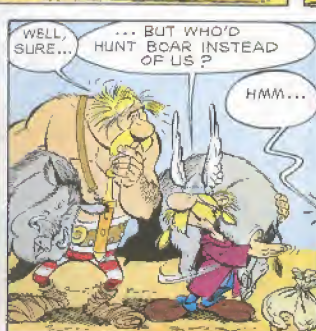
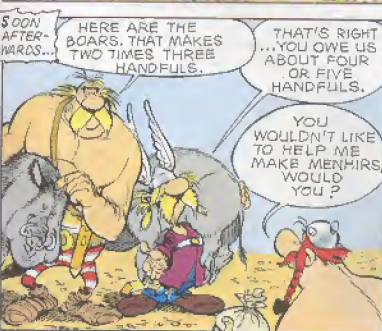
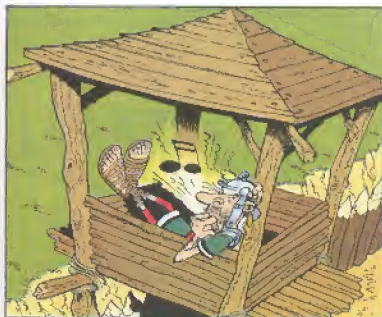




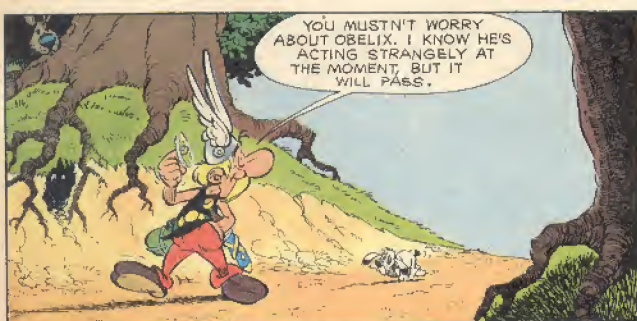




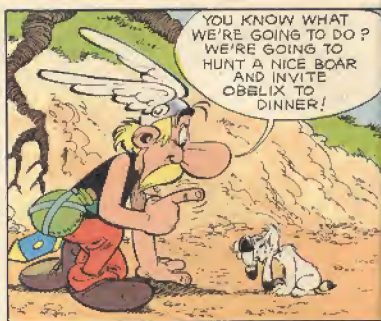








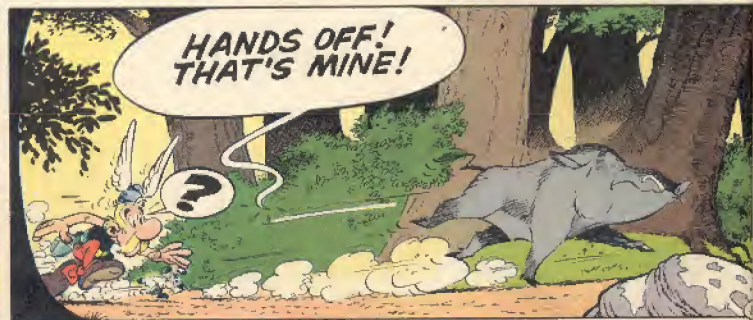
YOU MUSTN'T WORRY ABOUT OBELIX. I KNOW HE'S ACTING STRANGELY AT THE MOMENT, BUT IT WILL PASS.



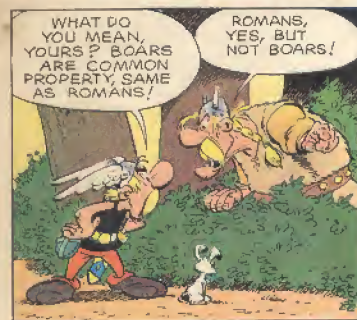
YOU KNOW WHAT WE'RE GOING TO DO? WE'RE GOING TO HUNT A NICE BOAR AND INVITE OBELIX TO DINNER!



AND HERE'S THE VERY THING! COME ON!



**HANDS OFF! THAT'S MINE!**



WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOURS? BOARS ARE COMMON PROPERTY, SAME AS ROMANS!

ROMANS, YES, BUT NOT BOARS!

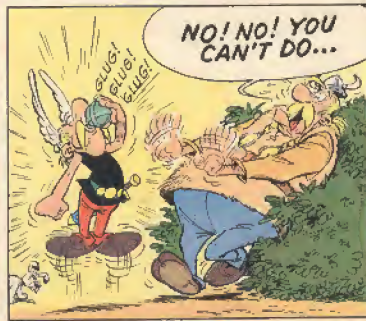


WE'RE HUNTING BOARS FOR OBELIX.

HIM PAY HEAP BIG HANDFULS FOR BOARS.



THAT'S RIGHT! WE'RE WORKING, AND YOU'RE DISTURBING US... SO GET LOST!



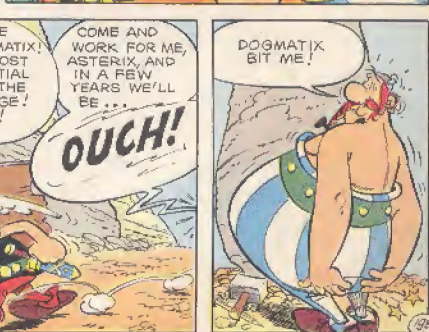
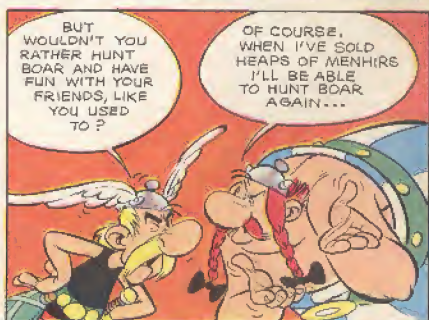
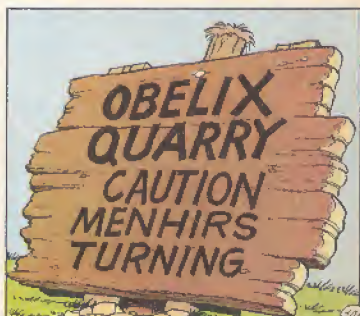
NO! NO! YOU CAN'T DO...



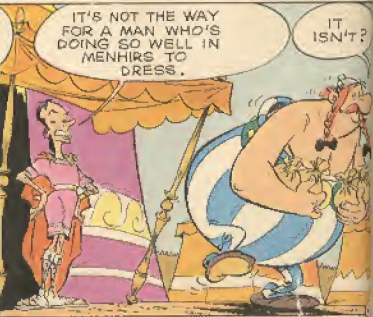
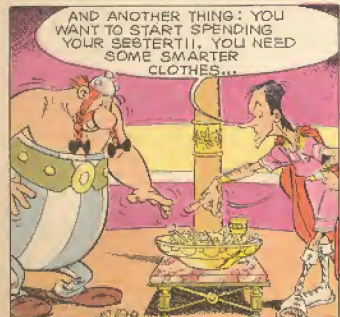
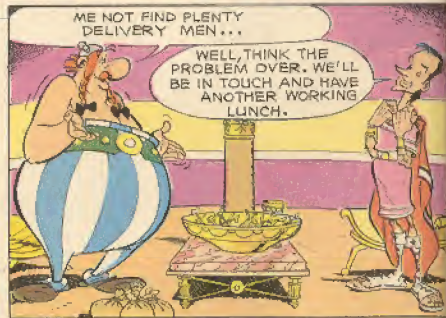
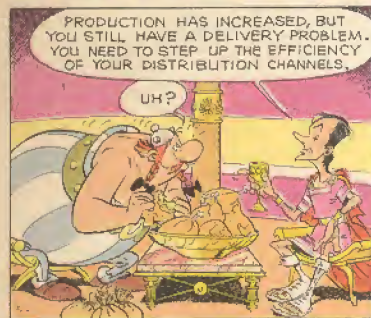
**THAT!**

**SLONK!**

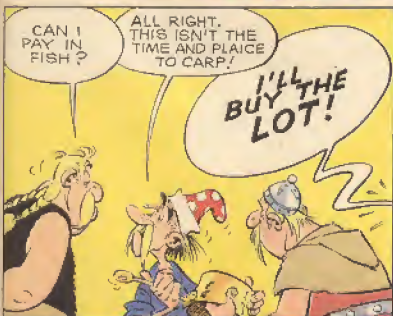
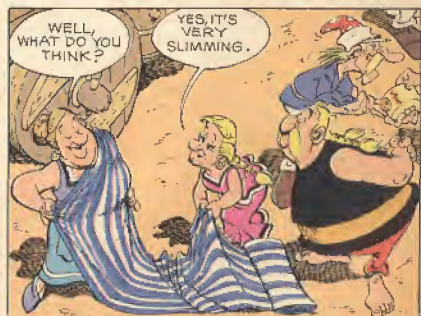
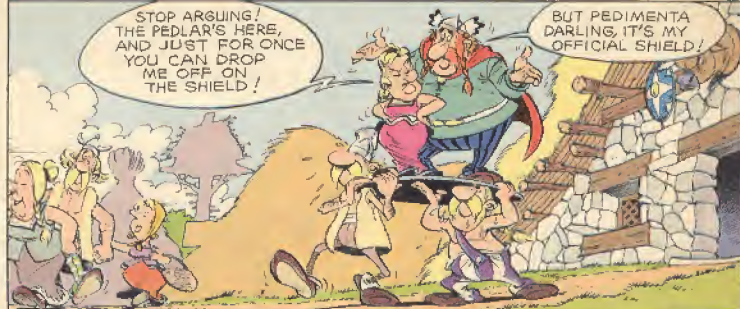




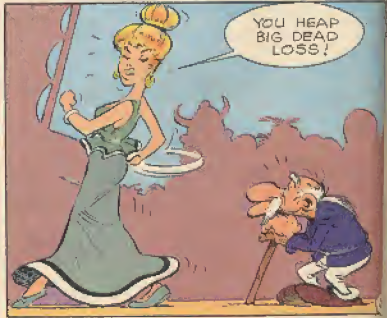
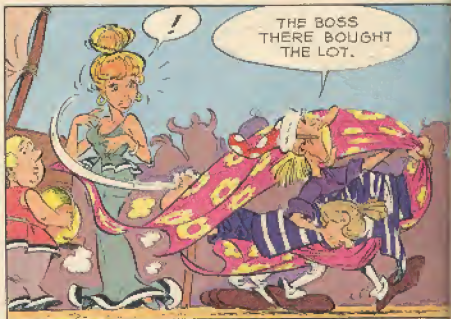
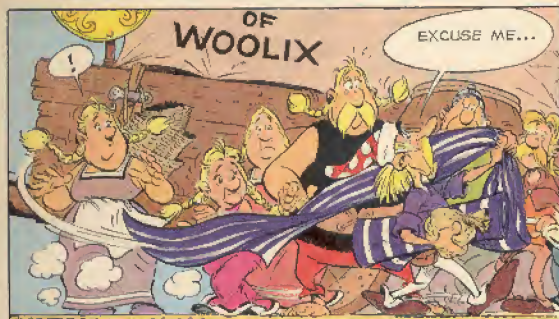
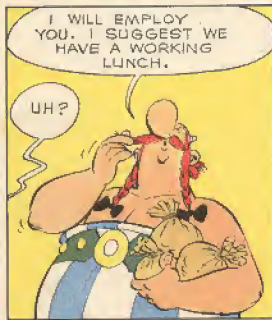
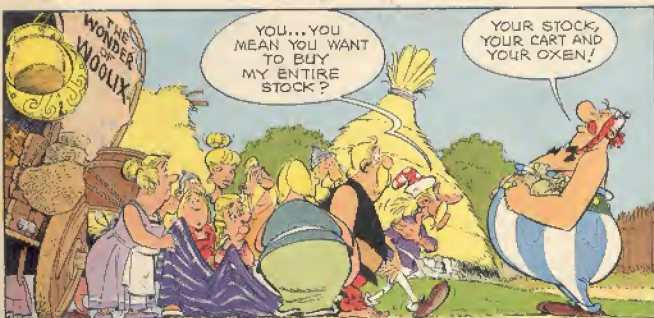




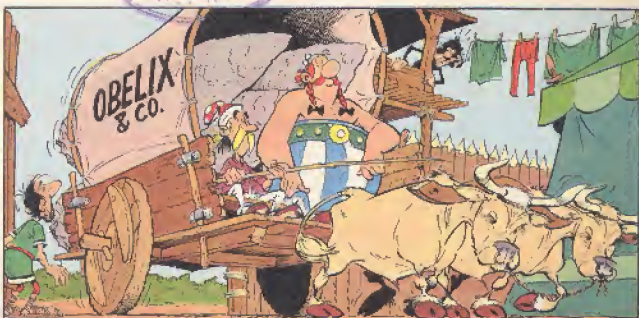








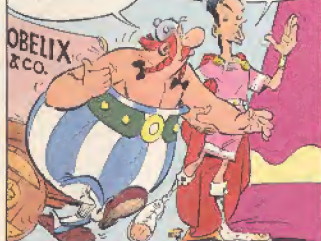




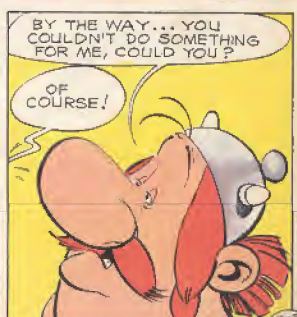
SPLENDID! WELL DONE!  
COME INTO MY TENT  
AND WE'LL GET DOWN  
TO BUSINESS. MENHIRS  
ARE GOING UP AGAIN.



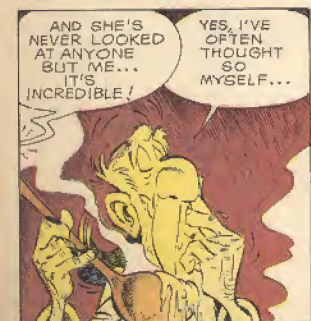
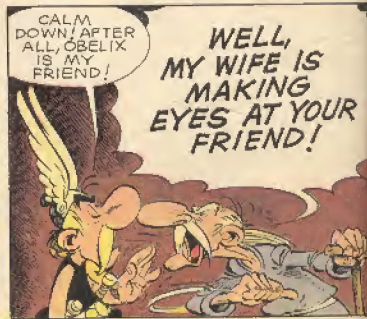
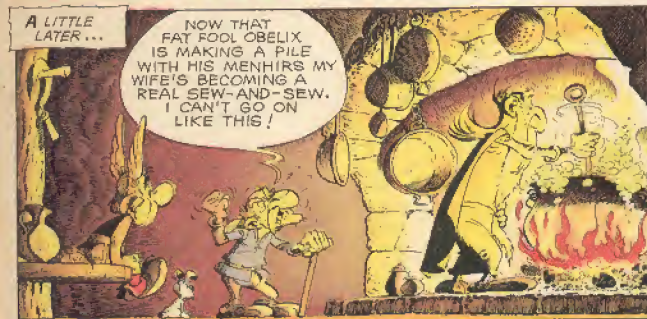
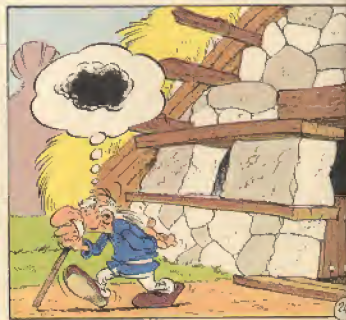
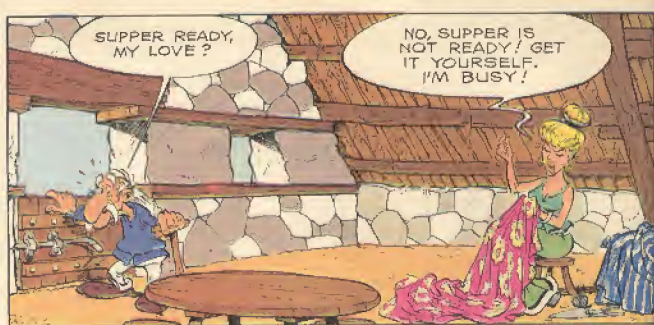
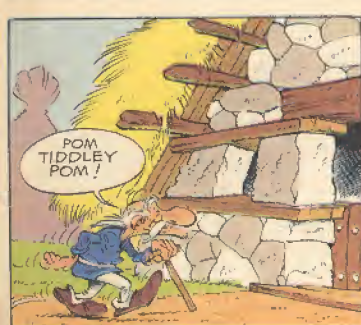
BUT I  
HAVE TO  
UNLOAD MY  
MENHIRS...



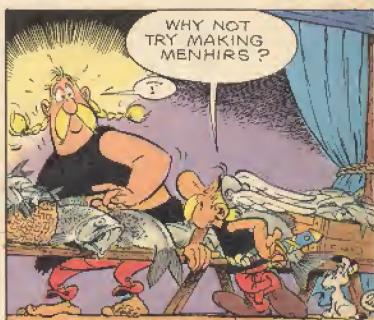
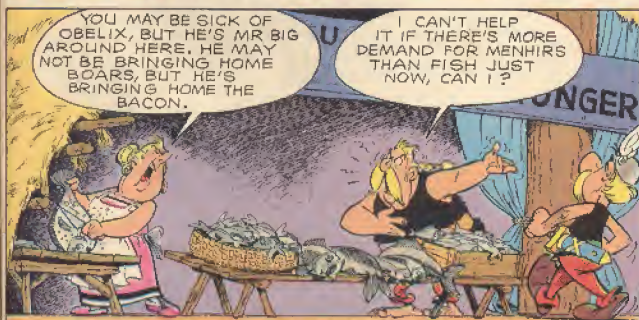
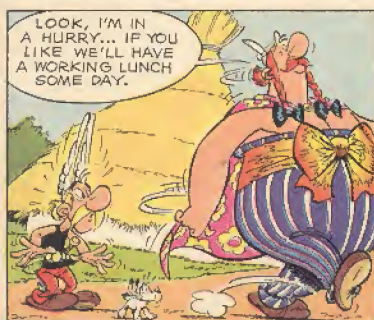
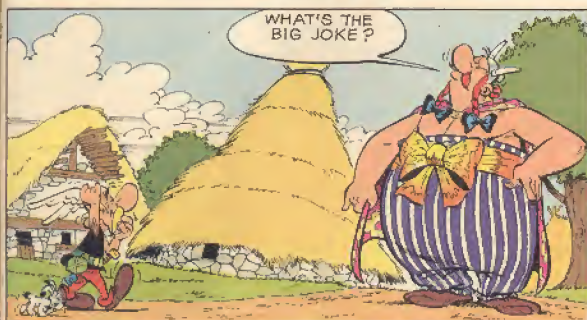
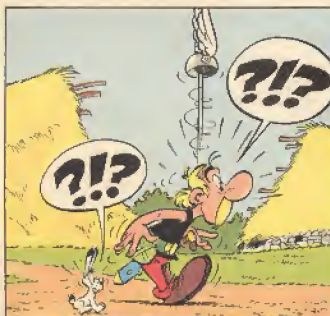
NO, NO! THAT'S NO  
JOB FOR A CAPTAIN OF  
INDUSTRY.



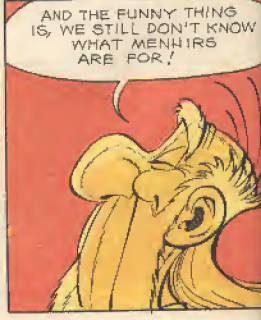
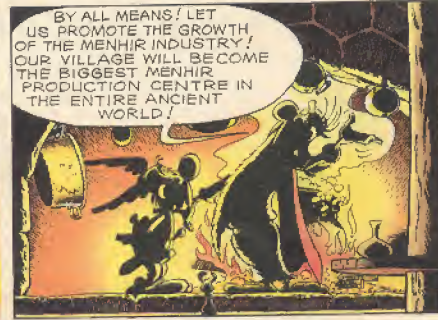
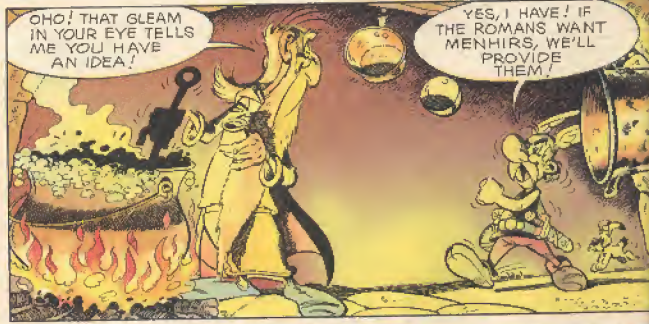
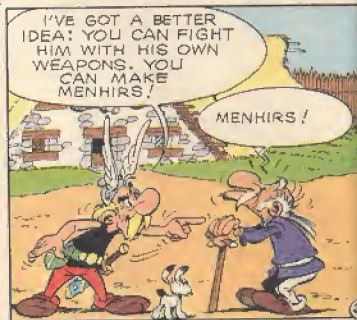
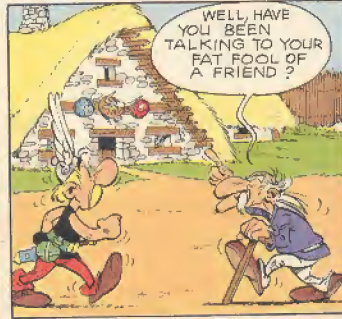
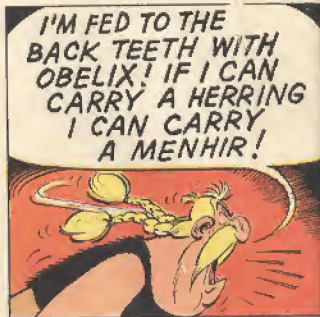
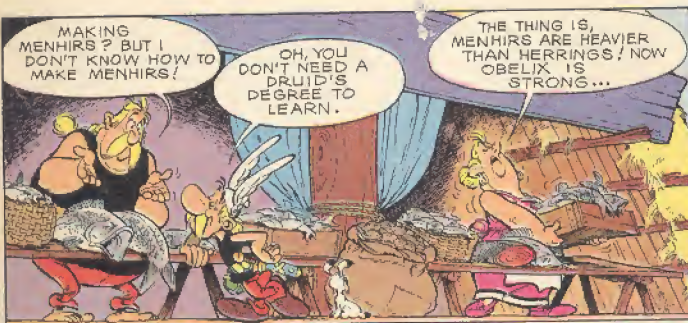




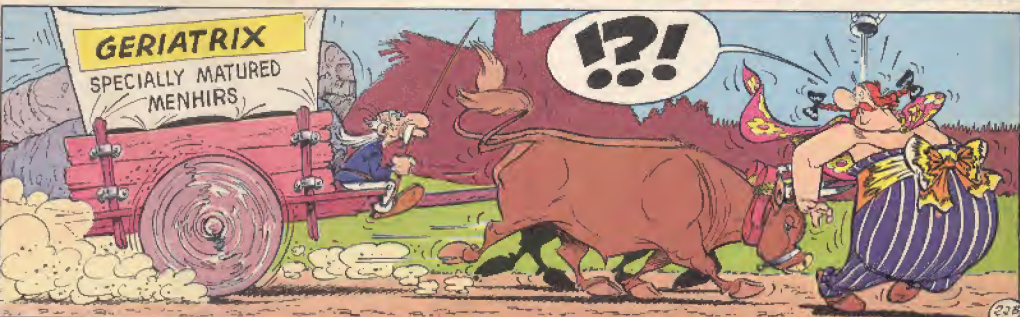
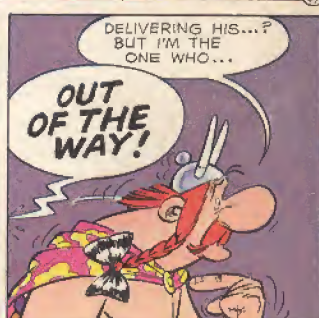
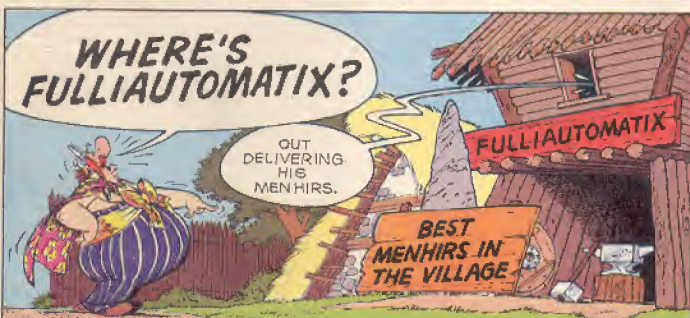
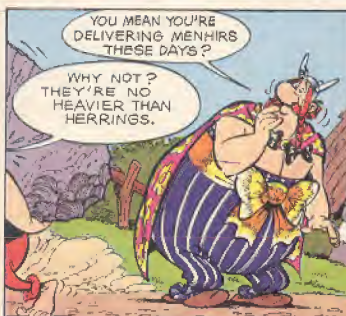
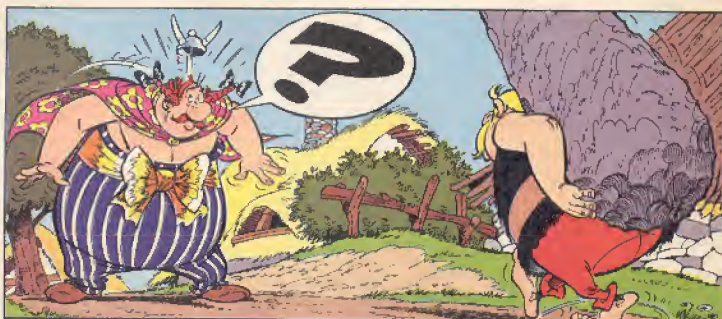
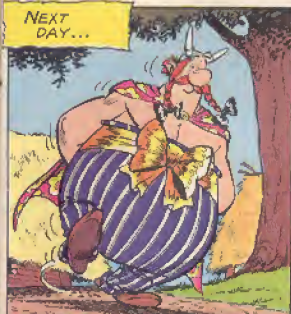




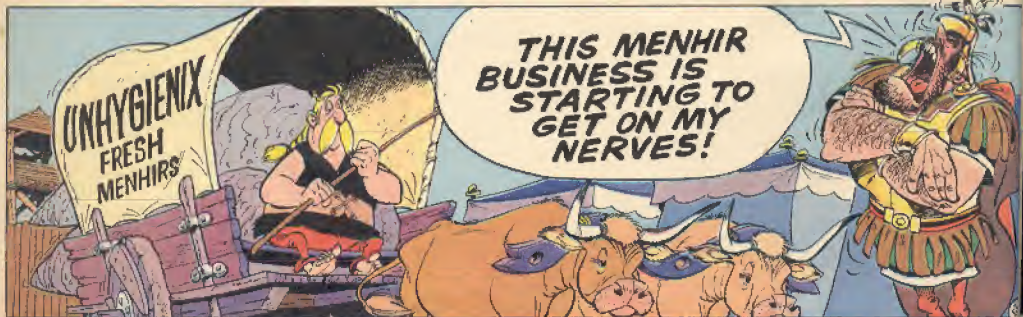
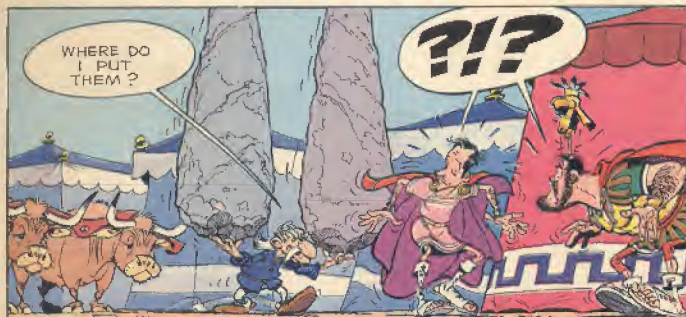




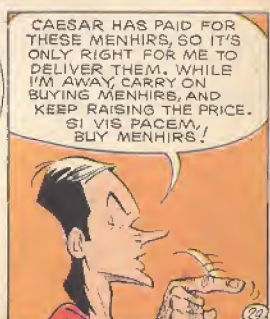
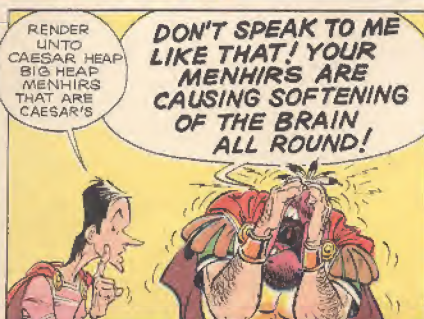




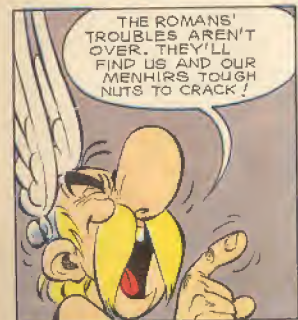
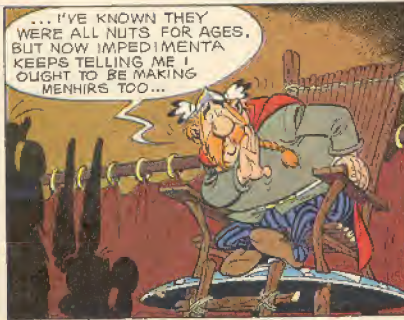
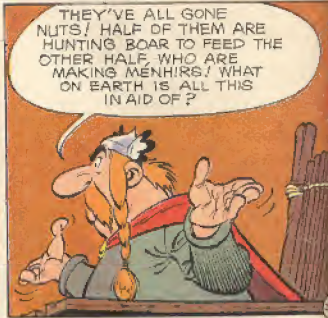
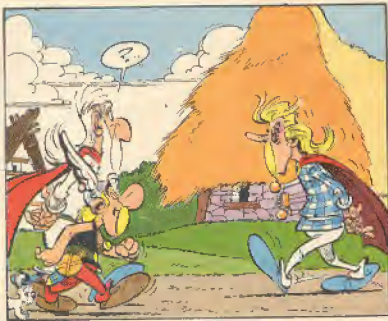














IN JULIUS CAESAR'S  
PALACE IN  
ROME...

AND  
JUST WHAT AM  
I SUPPOSED TO  
DO WITH ALL  
THESE  
MENHIRS?

BUT CAESAR, THOSE  
MENHIRS ARE THE  
PROOF OF MY SUCCESS!  
THE GAULS ARE  
TOO BUSY MAKING  
MENHIRS TO  
FIGHT, SO...

MAYBE, BUT  
YOU'RE DRAINING  
MY TREASURY  
TO KEEP A  
FEW MADMEN  
BUSY!

PEACE IS BEYOND  
ALL PRICE...  
SI VIS  
PACEM...

YOUNG MAN, I MAKE THE  
CLASSICAL REMARKS AROUND  
HERE, ALEA JACTA EST AND ALL  
THAT, AND WHAT'S MORE, YOU HAVEN'T  
ANSWERED MY QUESTION: WHAT AM  
I SUPPOSED TO DO WITH  
ALL THESE MENHIRS?

SELL THEM  
O CAESAR.

SELL THEM?

THAT'S RIGHT.  
THAT WAY, YOU  
NOT ONLY RECOVER  
YOUR EXPENSES,  
YOU MAKE  
A PROFIT  
TOO.

BUT  
WHO'D WANT  
MENHIRS?  
THEY'RE NO  
GOOD FOR  
ANYTHING!

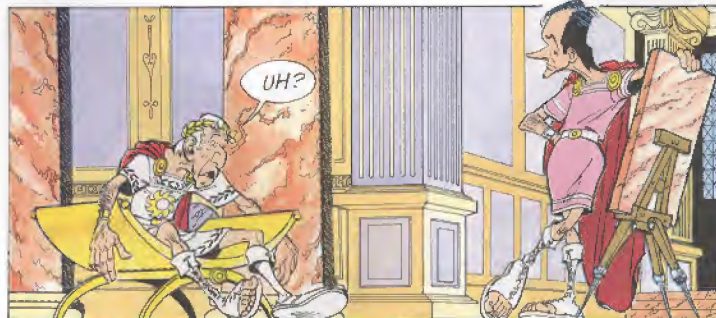
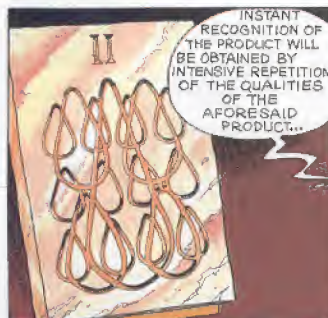
PRECISELY! WE MUST DRAW  
UP A PLAN OF CAMPAIGN, DECIDE  
ON OUR STRATEGY, SET OUR  
SIGHTS ON THE RIGHT  
TARGET!

CAMPAIGN? STRATEGY? TARGET?  
THAT'S THE KIND OF THING I  
LIKE TO HEAR! I'LL GIVE ORDERS  
FOR THE LEGIONS  
TO PREPARE FOR  
BATTLE!

NO NO!  
LET ME  
EXPLAIN...



THE FOLLOWING PASSAGE WILL BE DIFFICULT FOR THOSE OF YOU UNACQUAINTED WITH THE ANCIENT BUSINESS WORLD TO UNDERSTAND, ESPECIALLY AS, THESE DAYS, SUCH A STATE OF AFFAIRS COULD NEVER EXIST, SINCE NO ONE WOULD DREAM OF TRYING TO SELL SOMETHING UTTERLY USELESS...





A FEW DAYS LATER,  
ON EVERY WALL  
IN ROME...

YOUR DEAREST WISH...



IT'S BIG, IT'S  
BEAUTIFUL,  
IT'S A  
MENHIR.



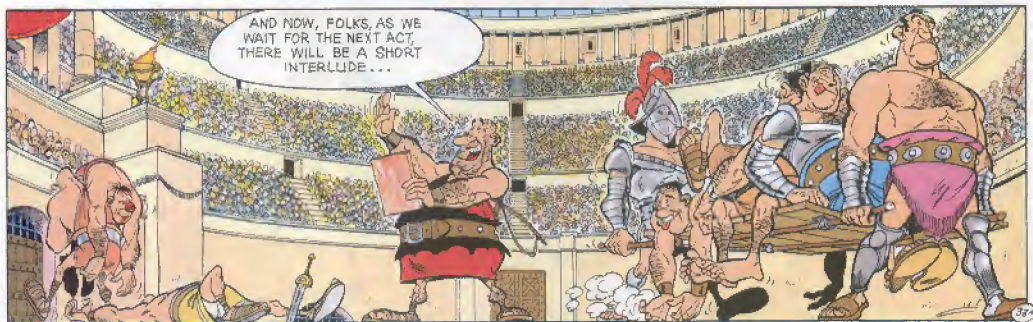
ON SALE IN ALL THE BEST  
TEMPLES, BATHS AND FORUMS

YOU OWN A VILLA, A  
CHARIOT, SLAVES...  
BUT...

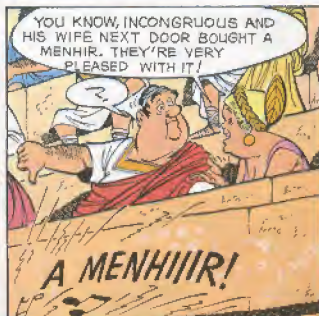


DO YOU OWN A MENHIR?

AND NOW, FOLKS, AS WE  
WAIT FOR THE NEXT ACT,  
THERE WILL BE A SHORT  
INTERLUDE...



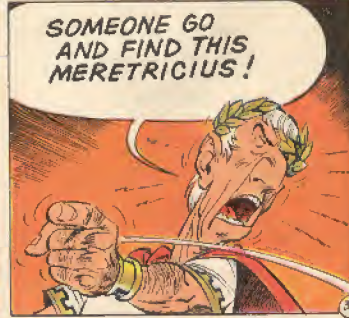
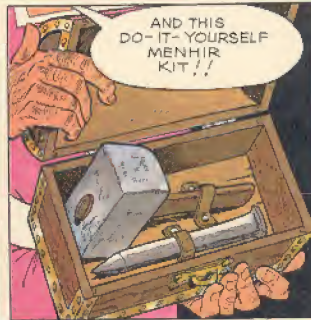
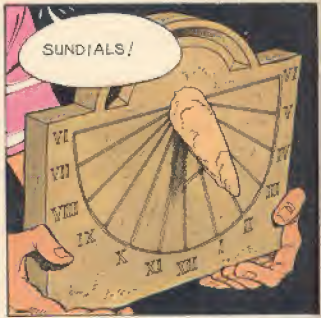
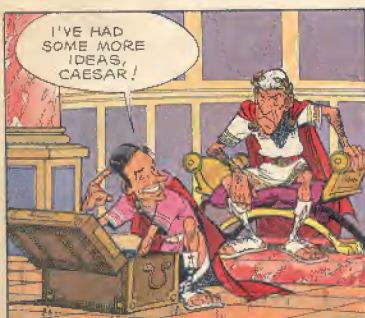
IT'S THE RIGHT ONE,  
IT'S NOT THE LIGHT ONE,  
IT'S A MENHIR...



AND THE RESULTS OF THE  
PUBLICITY CAMPAIGN ARE  
NOT LONG COMING IN...









SOON  
AFTERWARDS...

WHAT'S THE BIG  
IDEA, MERETRICIUS?  
SINCE WHEN  
HAVE ROMANS  
BEEN  
MANUFACTURING  
MENHIRS?

SINCE PEOPLE  
STARTED BUYING  
THEM, O CAESAR.

WELL, I  
FORBID YOU TO  
SELL ANY  
MORE  
MENHIRS!

I REPRESENT THE ENTIRE ROMAN  
MENHIR INDUSTRY, AND I CANNOT  
COUNTEenance AN EDICT  
WHICH ENDANGERS THE JOBS  
OF SO MANY WORKERS!

BUT THE  
WORKERS  
ARE  
SLAVES!

EXACTLY! THE RIGHT  
TO WORK IS THE ONLY  
RIGHT A SLAVE  
HAS. HE MUST  
NOT BE DEPRIVED  
OF IT!

IF YOU GO  
ON CIRCULATING  
MENHIRS  
YOU'LL FIND  
YOURSELF IN  
THE CIRCUS!

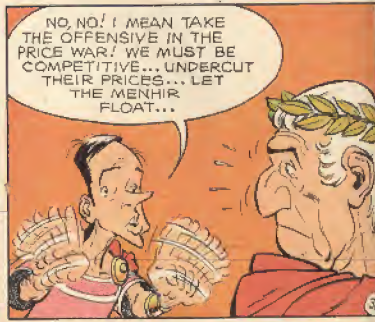
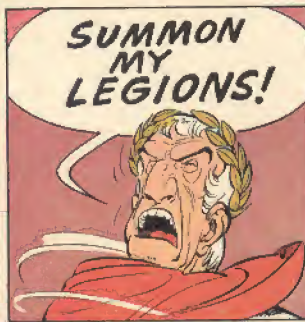
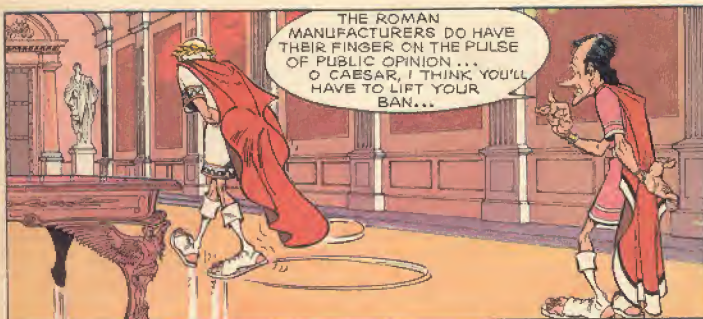
RIGHT, YOU  
LEAVE ME NO  
ALTERNATIVE.

NEXT DAY, ON  
THE APPIAN  
WAY...

JOBS FOR  
THE  
SLAVES

BAN THE GAULISH MENHIR

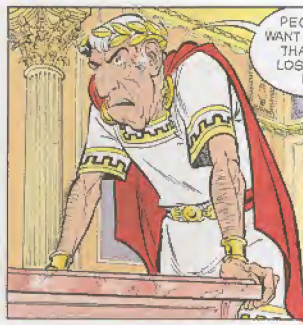






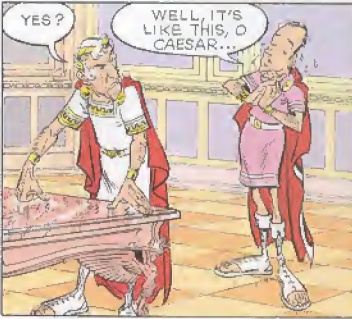
IN ROME, THE BOTTOM IS DROPPING OUT OF THE MENHIR MARKET.

FREE GIFT OF 11 BLUE SHIELD MENHIRS WITH EVERY SLAVE PURCHASED



PEOPLE DON'T EVEN WANT THEM AS A GIFT... WELL, THAT'S TOO BAD! I'VE LOST A FORTUNE, BUT LET'S FORGET IT...

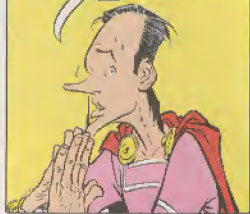
THE THING IS...



YES?

WELL, IT'S LIKE THIS, O CAESAR...

I WANTED TO KEEP THE PEACE IN GAUL, SO BEFORE I LEFT I GAVE ORDERS FOR THEM TO GO ON BUYING MENHIRS... AND RAISING THE PRICE.

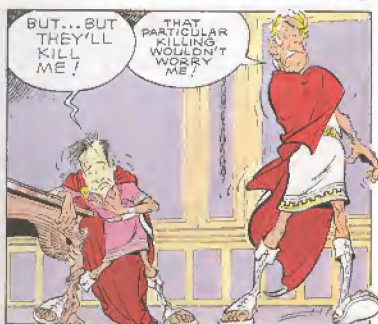


WHAT? YOU KNOW THE STATE OF MY FINANCES? AND YOU SAID WE'D MAKE A KILLING! GET BACK TO GAUL AND STOP IT!!!



ER... YOU WOULDN'T LIKE TO SEND SOMEONE ELSE, WOULD YOU? I HAVE A FRIEND WHO WAS AT BUSINESS SCHOOL WITH ME. HE...

YOU'RE GOING YOURSELF, YOU IDIOT! IT'S YOUR FAULT I NEARLY HAD A CIVIL WAR ON MY HANDS! ROME MIGHT HAVE BEEN RUINED! EVEN BRUTUS HAS BEEN GIVING ME NASTY LOOKS!

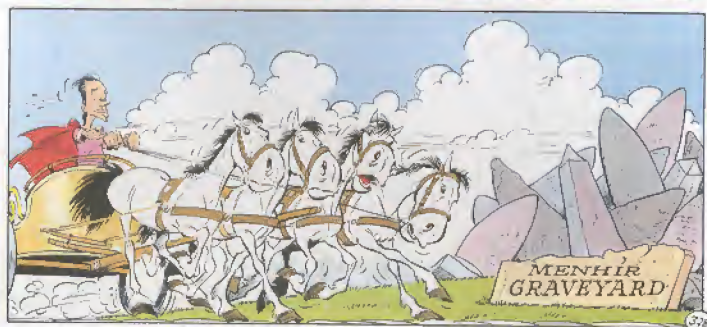


BUT... BUT THEY'LL KILL ME!

THAT PARTICULAR KILLING WOULDN'T WORRY ME!



ANYWAY, IF YOU DON'T GO I'LL HAVE YOU THROWN TO THE LIONS!!





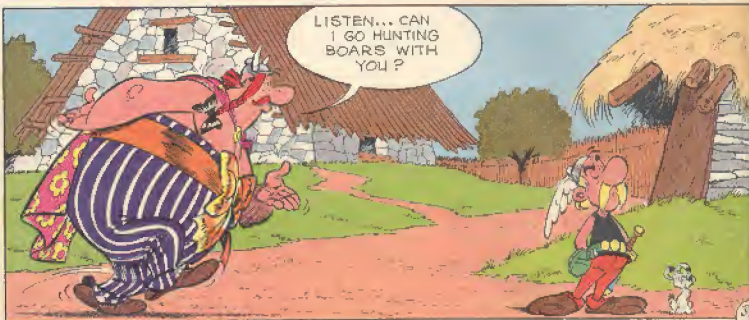
BUT THE WORLD MENHIR  
CRISIS HAS NOT YET AFFECTED  
THE GAULISH VILLAGE...



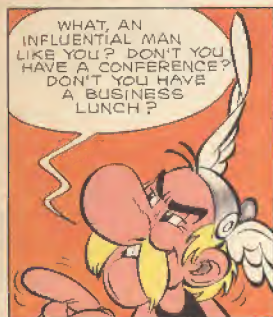
ASTERIX!  
DOGMATIX!



LISTEN... CAN  
I GO HUNTING  
BOARS WITH  
YOU?



WHAT, AN  
INFLUENTIAL MAN  
LIKE YOU? DON'T YOU  
HAVE A CONFERENCE?  
DON'T YOU HAVE  
A BUSINESS  
LUNCH?



PLEASE DON'T LAUGH AT ME.  
I KNOW I'VE BEEN SILLY. I'M BORED, AND  
I'VE HAD ENOUGH! EVERYONE HAS LOTS  
OF SESTERTII! NOW! EVERYONE'S THE  
MOST INFLUENTIAL MAN IN  
THE VILLAGE!

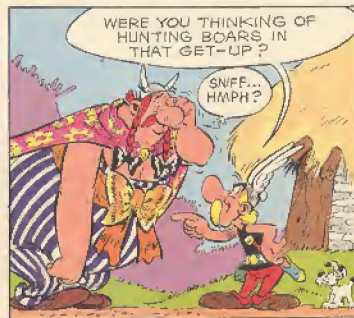


I WANT TO BE  
FRIENDS AGAIN! I  
WANT TO HUNT  
BOAR! I WANT TO  
HAVE FUN...  
-BOOOHOOO!



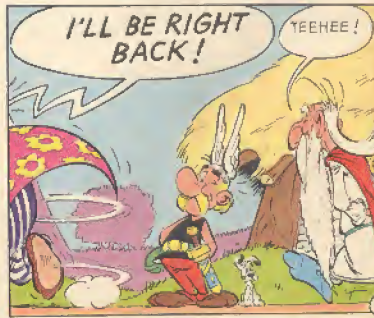
WERE YOU THINKING OF  
HUNTING BOARS IN  
THAT GET-UP?

SNIFF...  
HMPH?



I'LL BE RIGHT  
BACK!

TEEHEE!





THE CAMP OF TOTORUM...

HEY, WHAT DO YOU KNOW? OLD PREPOSTERUS IS BACK!

AVE, PREPOSTERUS! I CARRIED OUT YOUR ORDERS; WE HAVE VAST STOCKS OF MENHIRS...

AND I HOPE YOU'VE BROUGHT PLENTY OF SESTERTII, BECAUSE...

WATCH OUT, YOU LOT, HERE COMES ANOTHER CLOWN!

UNHYGIENIK  
FRESH  
MENHIRS

HERE ARE SOME MORE MENHIRS. YOUR LEGIONARIES CAN UNLOAD THEM.

NO, TAKE THEM AWAY!

WHAT?

I'M NOT BUYING ANY MORE MENHIRS.

BUT WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WITH THEM...? SUPPOSE I LET YOU HAVE THEM CHEAP?

NOOOO!

NO MORE MENHIRS! GET OUT!

WELL, HONESTLY!

I DON'T KNOW THAT I UNDERSTAND YOUR NEW STRATEGY...

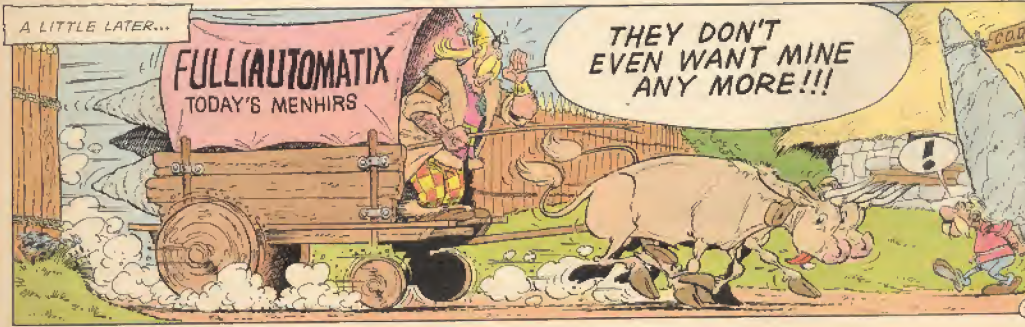
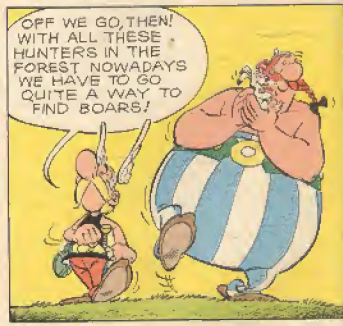
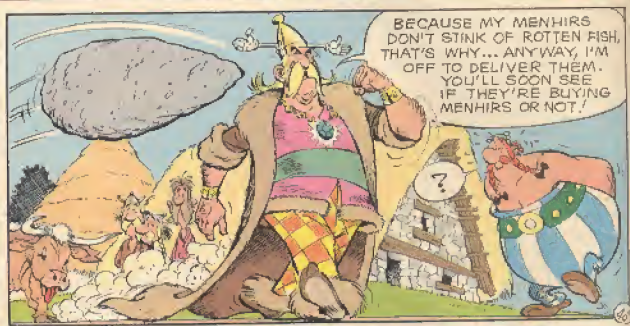
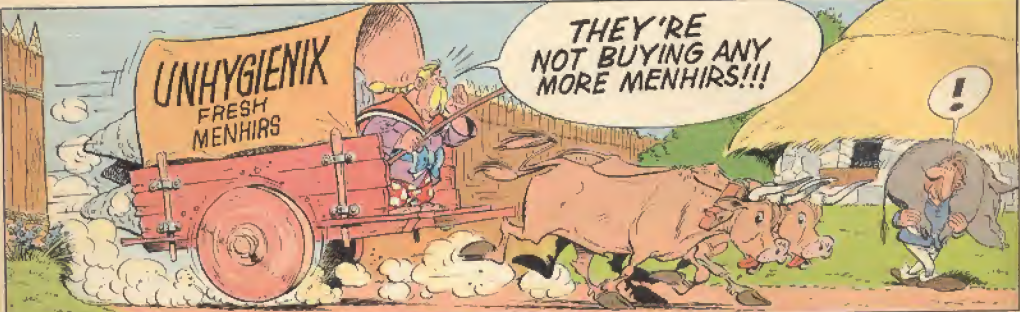
THERE ISN'T ANY STRATEGY. WE'RE NOT BUYING ANY MORE MENHIRS, THAT'S ALL!

RIGHT! I'LL BE OFF, AVE!

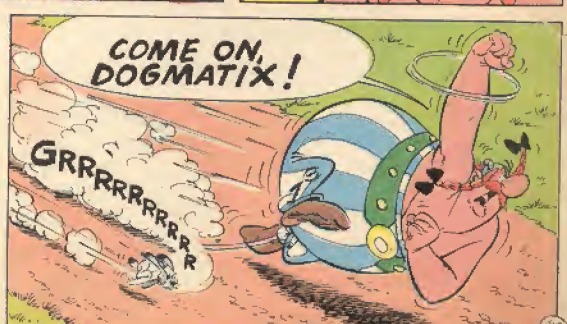
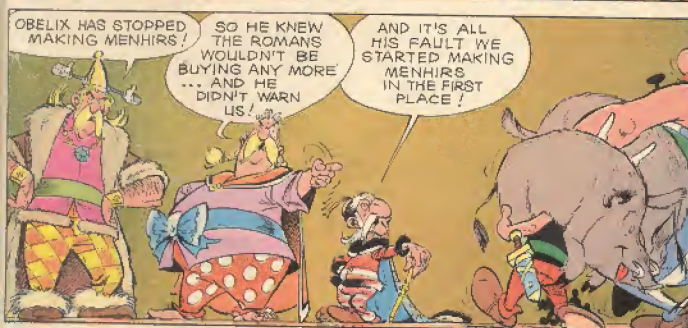
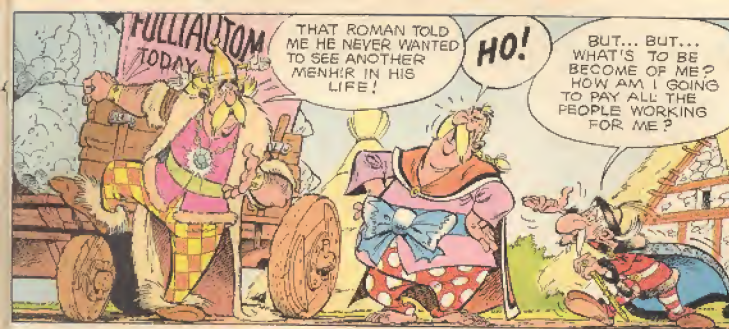
?!

OH NO, YOU WON'T! YOU'RE STAYING HERE UNTIL I FULLY UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION!













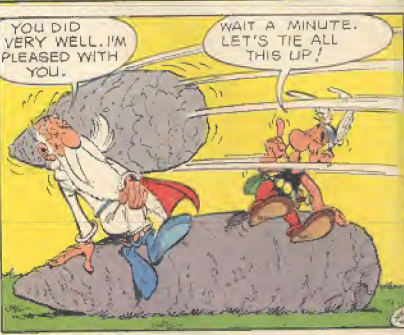
HOW NICE TO SEE THE VILLAGE RETURN TO ITS GOOD OLD DAYS!

YES, THERE'S NOTHING LIKE THE DAILY ROUND, THE COMMON TASK...

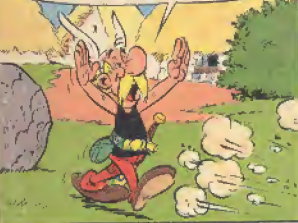


YOU DID VERY WELL. I'M PLEASED WITH YOU.

WAIT A MINUTE. LET'S TIE ALL THIS UP!



**STOP, EVERYBODY! LISTEN TO ME!**



SORRY TO DISTURB YOU, BUT WHY DON'T WE PAY A LITTLE CALL ON THE ROMANS INSTEAD OF FIGHTING EACH OTHER? AFTER ALL, THEY STARTED THE WHOLE THING!



YEAH!

HE'S RIGHT!

I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR YOUR LOVELY BIRTHDAY PRESENT, SO THIS TIME THE ROMANS ARE ON ME!



HOW ABOUT IT, O CHIEF VITALSTATISTIX?



**LET'S GET THEM, BY TOUTATIS!**

